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Research laboratory awards \$3.7 million contract

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KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. – A sum of \$3,770,084 was awarded yesterday as a portion of a potential \$80 million overall contract to provide specialized technical support to the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate here.

The \$80 million amount is an indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract which, in essence, means that the Air Force can use up to the total amount for related work. The first installment will provide the basis for work over the next five years. Awarded to Nuvonyx, Inc., of Bridgeton, Mo., the five-year contract will provide scientific and technical research to develop laser diode pump sources for fiber lasers.

Under the contract, the laboratory will work with Nuvonyx, Inc., and two of its subcontractors in a team arrangement. The subcontractors are Alfalight, Inc. of Madison, Wis., and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The team's focus is

two-fold; to integrate wavelength control structures into the laser diodes to reduce susceptibility to temperature changes and to improve the optical performance of the lasers while using automation methods to reduce the cost of the pump devices.

According to the laboratory's program manager, Michael Vigil, "A broad range of mission needs will be impacted significantly by successful integration of this technology and will improve high-energy laser technology. The primary benefits are improving the efficiency and reducing the costs of laser diode arrays. This technology will benefit both government and industry by developing greatly improved future fiber and solid state lasers."

Nuvonyx, Inc. was selected out of 32 other firms that submitted proposals. The company manufactures laser systems based on high-power direct laser diode technology. @